

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-10, 13-27 and 30 have been allowed. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 35 and 36 have been objected to, these claims would also be allowable if written in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has drafted claims 35 and 36 in independent form, as shown in the previous section, and submits that these claims are now allowable.

Additionally, although claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph (discussed below), the Examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection. In view of the following discussion, and the amendment to claim 11, Applicant submits that this claim is now allowable.

Claim 33:

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not provided any indication with regard to the status of claim 33. As claim 33 has not been rejected, Applicant presumes that claim 33 is allowable. If Applicant's presumption is not correct, Applicant hereby requests clarification from the Examiner.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-27, 30 and 33-36 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently, claims 11, 12 and 34 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claim 11:

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the phrase “the secondary scanning direction” has no antecedent basis. As shown in the previous section, Applicant has amended claim 11 to address the Examiner’s concerns. Applicant submits that the scope of claim 11 is clear and definite to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of this claim.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 12 and 34:

Claims 12 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,817 to Meyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,325,489 to Endo. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

In responding to the arguments set forth in the October 22, 2003 Amendment, the Examiner has asserted that both Figure 2 and col. 7, lines 25-35 of Endo teach using an interlaced printing operation such that at least one nozzle in the general vicinity of the end of the dot formation element array is printing in every scanning.

However, the present invention, as set forth in claim 12, is directed to an embodiment where only those nozzles located close to the edge of the print medium are activated when printing at an end portion of the medium, whereas the remaining nozzles of the array are deactivated. Specifically, “the recording head performs an interlaced recording operation for actuating only a portion of the dot formation elements which are located at a position close to the

end portion of all the dot formation elements when data are recorded on the end portion of the recording medium without leaving a margin.” *See* claim 12. Applicant submits that this is not disclosed or suggested in either the Meyer or Endo references.

None of the above prior art references teaches or suggests printing where only those nozzles located close to the edge of the print medium are activated when printing at an end portion of the medium, whereas the remaining nozzles of the array are de-activated. Therefore, even if the Endo and Meyer references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the resultant combination would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that even if the Endo and Meyer references were combined, the resultant combination fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 12. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of this claim. Further, as claim 34 depends on claim 12, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

Conclusion:

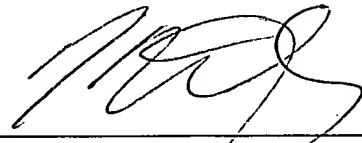
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/544,543

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Art Unit: 2853

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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